

NOTES ON DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT OF *SPERCHOPSIS TESSELLATUS* (COLEOPTERA: HYDROPHILIDAE) IN KENTUCKY¹

Melvin L. Warren, Jr.²

ABSTRACT: An adult and larva of the hydrophilid *Sperchopsis tessellatus* were collected from two widely separated counties during extensive stream surveys within Kentucky. Reports of this species across eastern North America are sporadic, and its distribution in Kentucky conforms to this pattern. It has not been previously reported from the state.

The hydrophilid beetle *Sperchopsis tessellatus* (Ziegler) has been reported only from the eastern half of the United States, where it is considered rare (Spangler 1961). Reported here is the first record of this beetle in Kentucky, this based on an adult and larva collected from two streams in western and eastern Kentucky, respectively. The specimens were obtained during extensive stream surveys (Harker et al 1979, 1980, 1981) across major physiographic regions of Kentucky. This beetle prefers undercut, gravelly and sandy banks with overhanging roots (Spangler 1961), and this habitat was routinely sampled at 175 sites. The rarity of this species in collections in appropriate habitat and the distance (350 km) between collection sites suggests *S. tessellatus* is extremely sporadic and localized within Kentucky.

The adult was collected 5 Aug 1980 from West Fork Pond River, Christian County, at the KY 813 crossing, and the larva on 8 June 1978 from Road Fork Creek, Knox County, at the KY 223 crossing. West Fork lies on the Dripping Springs Escarpment of the Interior Low Plateaus Physiographic Province and Road Fork in the highly dissected Cumberland Plateau. Both streams are of moderate gradient with sandy to gravelly undercut banks and overhanging roots or vegetation. Comprehensive descriptions of the sites, associated fauna, and water-quality parameters are presented in Harker et al. (1979, 1981).

The specimens are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History. No additional Kentucky specimens were found in the collections housed at the University of Kentucky, Lexington; the University of Louisville, Louisville; Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky; the Eastern Kentucky University Insect Collection, Richmond; the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; and the Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana.

¹Received July 2, 1984. Accepted August 24, 1984.

²Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Gratitude is expressed to P.J. Spangler (NMNH) for confirming the identifications and the following curators and institutions for searching their collections: D. Azuma (ANSP), C.V. Covell, Jr. (UL), G.E. DeMoss (MSU), W.E. LaBerge (INHS), J.E. McPherson (SIUC), B.M. O'Conner (UMMZ), and G. Schuster (EKU). J.E. McPherson suggested editorial improvements to the draft. This study was partially supported by funds from the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission, Frankfort. Samuel M. Call, Division of Environmental Services, Frankfort, provided field and laboratory assistance.

LITERATURE CITED

- Harker, D.H., Jr., S.M. Call, M.L. Warren, Jr., K.E. Camburn and P.E. Wigley. 1979. Aquatic biota and water quality survey of the Appalachian Province, eastern Kentucky. Ky. Nature Preserves Comm. Tech. Rep., Frankfort.
- _____, M.L. Warren, Jr., K.E. Camburn, S.M. Call, G.J. Fallo, and P.E. Wigley. 1980. Aquatic biota and water quality survey of the upper Cumberland River basin. Ky. Nature Preserves Comm. Tech. Rep., Frankfort.
- _____, M.L. Warren, Jr., K.E. Camburn, and R.R. Cicerello. 1981. Aquatic biota and water quality survey of the western Kentucky coalfield. Ky. Nature Preserves Comm. Tech. Rep., Frankfort.
- Spangler, P.J. 1961. Notes on the biology and distribution of *Sperchopsis tessellatus* (Ziegler) (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae). Coleop. Bull. 15: 105-112.

3rd EDITION INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has indicated that the 3rd edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature will soon be available. The book consists of parallel English and French texts, totaling about 320 pages. World-wide, it will be for sale for 15 pounds, plus 1.50 pound for postage and handling, through the Publications Sale, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD England. In the U.S.A., it will be available through the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature, Room W-115, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560. Individuals and organizations may purchase it for \$21.50, postage and handling included.

In order that the Code will be widely available, a prepublication price of \$18.75, postage and handling included, for individuals, is in effect until March 31, 1985. Delivery of the Code will be in spring, 1985. Checks drawn on a United States bank or International Money Orders should accompany all U.S. orders! Please make checks payable to American Association for Zoological Nomenclature.